

The Future of Eastern High School
Community Meeting
February 4, 2009
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Discussion Leader: Peggy O'Brien

The notes below reflect our effort to summarize the comments, questions and concerns expressed at each meeting. They are not recorded verbatim and should not be considered direct quotations.

Overview: Balance was the theme of the discussion. Participants wanted to create an Eastern SHS that supports diverse learning styles and serves all students to a high academic level preparing them for both college and career. Engagement with the professional community inside and outside the classroom was the other top priority for many participants, using modern technology and hands-on teaching styles to ensure student engagement. Eastern should be modern in technology and thinking, but recognize what worked in the past.

Attendance:

2 Teachers
4 Parents
18 Alumni (several also current parents or parents of former students)
1 Other School Staff
1 Students
1 Other

Notes:

Issue	Comments
Words to describe Eastern High School Students in 2012:	Involved; Extraordinary; Well-prepared (for learning, college, workforce, individual future); Promising; Achievers; Engaged in learning; Focused; Visionary; Innovative; Passion for learning; Optimistic.
Words to describe Eastern High School itself in 2012:	Futuristic; Innovative with technology; Disciplined; Diverse; Structured course of study;

	<p>Full of pride; Progressive curriculum; Respectful; Versatile and flexible.</p>
<p>What is your thinking about the Academy structure? What kind of academies appeal to you and why?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What's being considered for Eastern is an academy embedded within a comprehensive curriculum (school within a school) - Academies have a specific curriculum (i.e. business, health, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Should Eastern try to be like Banneker? – Banneker has IB program, is an application school that students can be uninvited from and does not have full sports program - Unlike Banneker or other application schools, Eastern must serve achievers of all different levels. An academy model would allow Eastern to serve students with those interests. - Many people felt that an embedded academy could help improve academics at Eastern. - Eastern has a legacy of specializing in health careers. - We need to be mindful of students' different learning styles and be inclusive. - Eastern can provide excellent academics AND provide trade skills simultaneously. The academy model could facilitate engagement with professional community inside and outside the classroom.
<p>What kind of things and people need to be in place to create the Eastern we want?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The academy model could facilitate engagement with professional community inside and outside the classroom. - Academics are rewarded currently at Eastern, but it is not yet strong enough to prepare students for college (i.e. 500 Club). - Teacher quality is essential. - Eastern need professionals from the field/community to come into classroom or use field trips to engage and stimulate students. Students don't learn just from sitting at a desk. - Engage the alumni association.
<p>Miscellaneous notes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eastern has a diverse socioeconomic/family background.

	<p>Keeping it a neighborhood school needs ensure that it serves all these students and families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Media, communications, technology, and tools should be priorities.
--	--